



Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., warned that "a presidential veto would be futile in light of the overwhelming, bipartisan support for this measure in both houses."

months for most veterans. The subsidy for disabled veterans could continue for 15 months.

- Provided that the training program in most cases must last for at least six months for occupations in growth industries, for jobs requiring new technological skills or in fields for which jobs outnumber the labor supply.

- Required employers to certify that after completion of the job training program, the veteran would be hired in a permanent, stable job for which he was trained; also required employers to certify that training would not be offered to a veteran who was already qualified for the job.

- Stipulated that employers could not lay off or fire other workers in order to participate in the veterans' job training program.

- Allowed employers to contract with an educational institution to provide job training.

- Expanded GI Bill eligibility for Vietnam-era veterans to enable them to pursue associate degree programs that are predominantly vocational; barred veterans from receiving job training benefits under both the new program and other federal programs.

- Authorized the Veterans Administration and the Labor Department to jointly administer the program, but designated the VA as the lead agency.

- Provided that eligible veterans could enroll in the program between Oct. 1, 1983, and Sept. 30, 1985; payments could continue through Sept. 30, 1986.

Access to Procurement Information:

Bill to Help Small Business Get U.S. Contracts Cleared

President Reagan Aug. 11 signed into law a bill (S 272 — PL 98-72) designed to increase competition for government procurement contracts and make it easier for small businesses to receive these contracts, primarily by requiring advance notice.

The bill was cleared Aug. 1, when the House approved the conference report (H Rept 98-263) by voice vote. The Senate approved it June 27.

The bill originally was reported by the Senate Small Business Committee Feb. 2 and passed the Senate the next day. The House passed the bill with amendments March 8. The conference report was filed June 23.

Parren J. Mitchell, D-Md., chairman of the House Small Business Committee, called the measure "a vital tool for small business entrepreneurs who seek a larger share of federal contracts for goods and services."

Provisions

S 272 would require federal agencies and departments to publish notice of upcoming federal contracts worth \$10,000 or more in the *Commerce Business Daily* at least 15 days prior to soliciting contract bids. In addition, federal agencies must allow at least 30 days for receipt of bids or proposals.

Exemptions. There would be a number of exemptions from these rules, including:

- Purchases that are classified for security reasons.

- Goods or services for which the department has an "unusual and compelling" urgency.

- Transactions in which a foreign government is reimbursing the United States for the cost and only one source is available, or if the terms of an international agreement or treaty authorize or require that the procurement be from specified sources.

- Purchases made from another government department or a mandatory source of supply.

- Utility services if only one source is available.

- Purchases made against an order placed under a "requirements" contract allowing federal departments to

purchase goods regularly as needed, such as meat to feed military personnel.

- Research resulting from unsolicited proposals if publication would disclose originality of thought or innovation.

- Purchases on which the Small Business Administration and the department agree that advance notice is not appropriate or reasonable.

Federal departments also must publish notice in the *Commerce Business Daily* of prime contract awards exceeding \$25,000 in which subcontracting is likely, unless the procurement is classified because of security reasons.

Sole Source Contracts. The measure also would make it more difficult for federal departments to negotiate a sole source contract with a single company by requiring, in most circumstances, the approval of the head of the procurement division or his deputy.

The sole source provision of the bill would apply to procurement contracts valued at \$1 million in fiscal year 1984, \$500,000 in fiscal 1985 and \$300,000 in fiscal 1986 and subsequent years. It would take effect Oct. 1, 1983. All other provisions would apply to procurement actions initiated 90 days after the date of enactment.

CORRECTIONS

Revenue Sharing. Weekly Report p. 1608, col. 2, next-to-last paragraph: The Brooks amendment, to restore the special revenue sharing authorization for Louisiana sheriffs, was adopted (not rejected) by voice vote.

Vote Correction. Weekly Report p. 1624, CQ vote 273. HR 3069. Supplemental Appropriations, Fiscal 1983. Rep. Sala Burton, D-Calif., should have been recorded as "voted 'present' to avoid possible conflict of interest (C)." Rep. George E. Brown Jr., D-Calif., should have been recorded as "voted for (Y)." The breakdown is correct as printed.

—By Susan Smith

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